

March 14, 2000, which is a divisional of prior Application No. 08/362,234, filed on December 12, 1994 and issued as Patent No. 5,808,800 on September 15, 1998.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-9 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein, and add claims 10-35 as follows.

10. (new) A display system, comprising:

a support surface;

a source of light located proximate to the support surface;

a microdisplay located proximate to the support surface;

a reflector located above the support surface in position to reflect the light from the

source of light to eventually illuminate the microdisplay.

11. (new) A display system as defined in claim 10, wherein the reflector is substantially planar.

12. (new) A display system as defined in claim 10, wherein the reflector is curved.

13. (new) A display system as defined in claim 10, wherein the reflector is a beam splitter.

14. (new) A display system as defined in claim 13, wherein the beam splitter is a polarizing beam splitter.

15. (new) A display system as defined in claim 13, wherein the beam splitter is a holographic beam splitter.

16. (new) A display system as defined in claim 10, wherein the microdisplay is a reflective microdisplay.

17. (new) A display system as defined in claim 10, further including optical elements positioned in a light path above the microdisplay, wherein the microdisplay is a reflective microdisplay, wherein the optical elements are receptive of light reflected from the microdisplay, the optical elements directing the reflected light for viewing, and further wherein the reflector is positioned in the light path between the microdisplay and the optical elements.

18. (new) A display system as defined in claim 10, wherein each of the light source and the microdisplay have a primary optical axis, and further wherein these optical axes intersect with one another.

19. (new) A display system as defined in claim 10, wherein the microdisplay is a reflective liquid crystal spatial light modulator.

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20. (new) A display system as defined in claim 19, wherein the spatial light modulator is pixellated.

21. (new) A display system as defined in claim 19, wherein the spatial light modulator uses ferroelectric liquid crystals.

22. (new) A display system as defined in claim 13, wherein the beam splitter is optically disposed between both the light source and the spatial light modulator and between the spatial light modulator and a source imaging area, the beam splitter directing light from the light source to the spatial light modulator and from the spatial light modulator to the source imaging area.

23. (new) A display system, comprising:
a support surface;
a source of light located proximate to the support surface, the source being oriented to direct light up and away from the support surface;
a microdisplay located proximate to the support surface;
an optical element located above the support surface in position to direct the light from the source of light toward the microdisplay.

24. (new) A display system as defined in claim 23, wherein the optical element includes a reflector.

25. (new) A display system as defined in claim 24, wherein the reflector is curved.

26. (new) A display system as defined in claim 24, wherein the reflector is a beam splitter.

27. (new) A display system as defined in claim 26, wherein the beam splitter is a polarizing beam splitter.

28. (new) A display system as defined in claim 26, wherein the beam splitter is a holographic beam splitter.

29. (new) A display system as defined in claim 23, wherein the microdisplay is a reflective microdisplay.

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30. (new) A display system as defined in claim 24, further including optical elements positioned in a light path above the microdisplay, wherein the microdisplay is a reflective microdisplay, wherein the optical elements are receptive of light reflected from the microdisplay, the optical elements directing the reflected light for viewing, and further wherein the reflector is positioned in the light path between the microdisplay and the optical elements.

31. (new) A display system as defined in claim 23, wherein each of the light source and the microdisplay have a primary optical axis, and further wherein these optical axes intersect with one another.

32. (new) A display system as defined in claim 23, wherein the microdisplay is a reflective liquid crystal spatial light modulator.

33. (new) A display system as defined in claim 32, wherein the spatial light modulator is pixellated.

34. (new) A display system as defined in claim 32, wherein the spatial light modulator uses ferroelectric liquid crystals.

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35. (new) A display system as defined in claim 26, wherein the beam splitter is optically disposed between both the light source and the spatial light modulator and between the spatial light modulator and a source imaging area, the beam splitter directing light from the light source to the spatial light modulator and from the spatial light modulator to the source imaging area.

Respectfully submitted,

MARSH FISCHMANN & BREYFOGLE LLP

By: 

Robert G. Crouch

Registration No. 34,806

3151 South Vaughn Way, Suite 411

Aurora, Colorado 80014

(720) 562-5506

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